

REMARKS

Claims 11 and 17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 11 and 17 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-10 and 12-16 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the references cited in the attached Information Disclosure Statement, and return to Applicants' undersigned representatives an initialed Form PTO-1449.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,782,379 to Lee, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,564,193 to Shore et al. (Shore). The rejection of canceled claims 1-10 and 12-16 is moot. The rejection of claims 11 and 17 is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Lee and Shore would not have rendered obvious an instruction form execution apparatus having an execution part that, when a portable storage medium is attached to an instruction form execution apparatus, reads the instruction form having user access rights from the portable storage medium, as recited in independent claim 11, and similarly recited in independent claim 17.

The Office Action alleges that col. 9, lines 17-22 of Lee discloses "forms ... such as the certificate registration information" that correspond to an instruction form associated with a user based on user access rights. Further, the Office Action alleges on page 8 that the portable storage drive 62 illustrated in Fig. 2 of Lee corresponds to the claimed portable storage and asserts that "Lee discloses a portable storage medium containing the certificates associated with the user." Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons.

Lee discloses that the portable storage medium drive 62 operates in conjunction with a portable non-volatile storage medium that contains system software for implementing the system of Lee (see col. 10, lines 40-46). Lee does not disclose that the portable non-volatile storage medium contains the certificate registration information, which allegedly corresponds to the claimed instruction form. Instead, Lee explicitly discloses that a user's identity profile and the resource's authentication criteria are stored on Directory Server 36 (see col. 9, lines 17-22). Therefore, Lee discloses that the certificate registration information is read from the Directory Server 36, not from the portable non-volatile storage medium. Consequently, Lee does not disclose that the portable non-volatile storage medium stores any information that can reasonably be considered as corresponding to an instruction form having user access rights. Shore fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lee, and is only cited for allegedly disclosing the use of tags for printing, scanning or faxing. Therefore, independent claims 11 and 17 are patentable over the combination of Lee and Shore. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 11 and 17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Justin T. Lingard
Registration No. 61,276

JAO:JTL/hs

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Information Disclosure Statement

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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